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NSC BRIEFING

5 August 1954

1954 YANGTZE RIVER FLOOD DISASTER

I. Unprecedented rainfall in Yangtze valley this spring and summer has caused one of worst floods of century.

- A. Major disaster to food crops and homes.
- B. Peiping publicly says is successfully combating flood conditions.

B. Our belief that this year's damage to food crops must be comparable to 1931, despite flood control activities.

IV. Area affected by flood is where most of China's rice is grown.

A. Loss expected to be millions of tons.

B. Will offset excellent North China harvests.

C. Will significantly increase
regime's financial and food
problems, and reduce supply
available for export.